ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODIES

ADULT READERS ONLY

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Associated Student Bodies

Issue 8

Story by
Lance Rund

Art by
Chris McKinley

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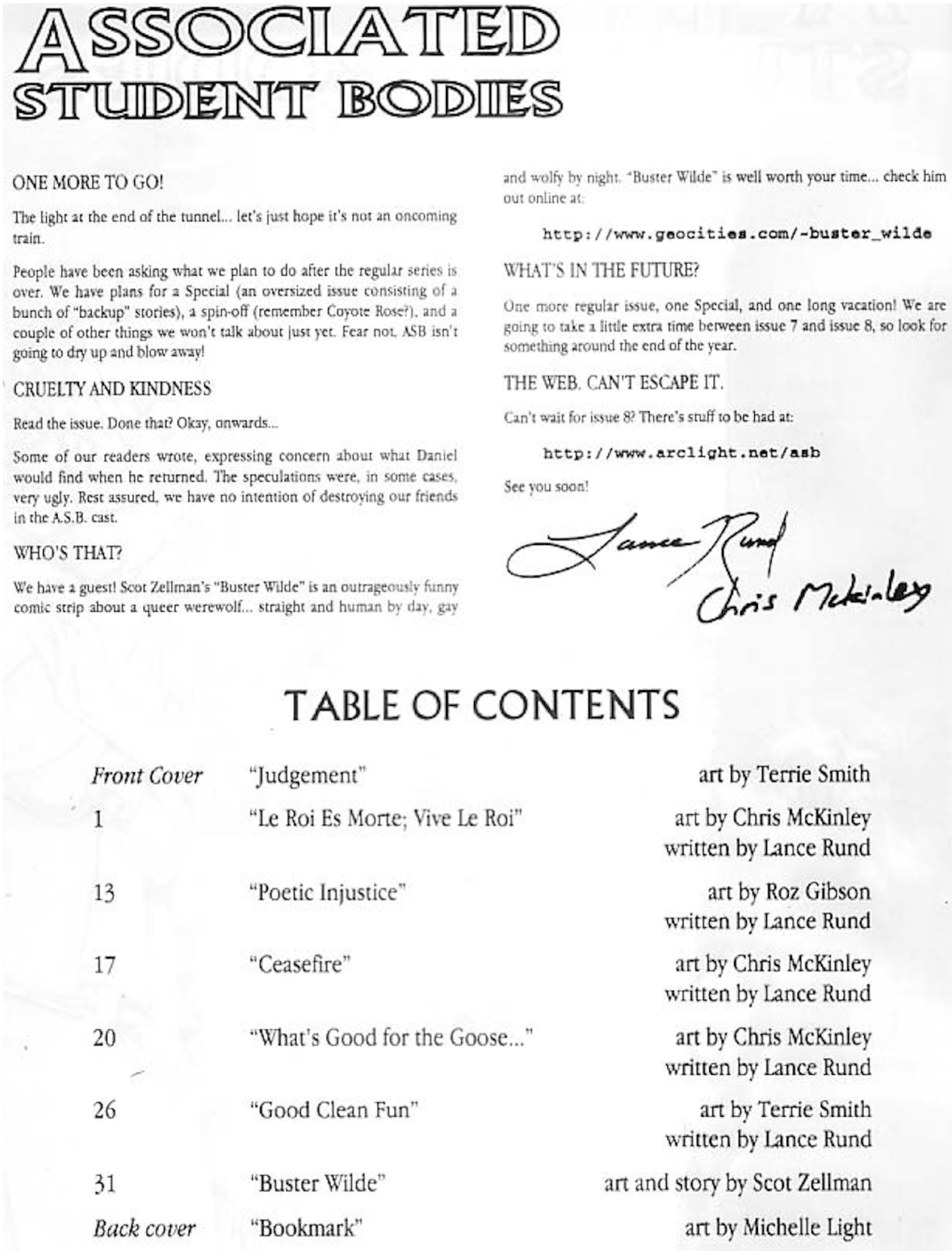

ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODIES

ONE MORE TO GO!

The light at the end of the tunnel... let's just hope it's not an oncoming train.

People have been asking what we plan to do after the regular series is over. We have plans for a Special (an oversized issue consisting of a bunch of "backup" stories), a spin-off (remember Coyote Rose?), and a couple of other things we won't talk about just yet. Fear not, ASB isn't going to dry up and blow away!

CRUELTY AND KINDNESS

Read the issue. Done that? Okay, onwards...

Some of our readers wrote, expressing concern about what Daniel would find when he returned. The speculations were, in some cases, very ugly. Rest assured, we have no intention of destroying our friends in the A.S.B. cast.

WHO'S THAT?

We have a guest! Scot Zellman's "Buster Wilde" is an outrageously funny comic strip about a queer werewolf... straight and human by day, gay and wolfy by night. "Buster Wilde" is well worth your time... check him out online at:

`http://www.geocities.com/-buster_wilde`

WHAT'S IN THE FUTURE?

One more regular issue, one Special, and one long vacation! We are going to take a little extra time between issue 7 and issue 8, so look for something around the end of the year.

THE WEB. CAN'T ESCAPE IT.

Can't wait for issue 8? There's stuff to be had at:

`http://www.arclight.net/asb`

See you soon!

Lance Rund
Chris McKinley

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CLOSURE

STORY BY LANCE RUND · ART BY TERRIE SMITH

I'M WORRIED ABOUT HIM.
HE'S BEEN LIKE THAT ALL WEEK.

HE'S ALL WORKED UP 'BOUT STEVEN.
POOR GUY...
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
WHATCHA MEAN?
YOU AND RICKY... YOU'RE TOGETHER, BUT HE'S HUNG UP ON ANOTHER GUY.
I AIN'T GONNA LIE. SOMETIMES IT HURTS...
BUT, FACT IS, HE AIN'T STAYING HERE. HE'S MOVIN' WITH ME. SAYS SOMETHING.
IT SAYS EVERYTHING.
DON'T GET ME WRONG... I LIKE STEVEN TOO. HECK, I'D HUMP HIM TOO, IF HE WANTED...
GET IN LINE!
AH, WELL. I GOTTA GET GOIN'. SPENDIN' THE NIGHT WITH MY FOLKS... THEY'RE IN TOWN.
SEE YOU TOMORROW AT GRADUATION !
RICKY'S LUCKIER THAN HE KNOWS.

HI, PUPPY...
OH, HI, RICKY!
RICKY..? CAN WE TALK FOR A MOMENT?
SURE...
UM. WHAT ARE YOU WRITING?
MY COMMENCEMENT SPEECH...
HOW'S IT COMING?
NOT TOO GOOD. I CAN'T THINK WELL LATELY.
YEAH, WE'VE ALL NOTICED. WHAT'S WRONG?

I DON'T KNOW IF I'LL EVER SEE YOU AGAIN AFTER TOMORROW!
SHH... PLEASE, DON'T CRY... IT'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT.
NO IT WON'T!
I LOVE YOU SO MUCH... AND YOU'RE THE ONLY THING I CAN NEVER HAVE!
I'M SO SORRY...
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, PUPPY... I CAN'T ASK YOU TO CHANGE. I'M JUST SO STUPID FOR WANTING...
THIS ISN'T **RIGHT**...
SNIFF
RICKY..?

I... RICKY, I WANT YOU TO STAY WITH ME TONIGHT.
WHAT--
PLEASE, STEVEN... DON'T TEASE ME. IT ALREADY HURTS SO BAD...
RICKY... LOOK AT ME.
I MEAN IT. I WOULD NEVER JOKE ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE THIS.
YOU'VE BEEN SO GOOD TO ME.
B-BUT...
YOU'RE A DEAR AND SPECIAL FRIEND. I'D DO ANYTHING TO MAKE YOU HAPPY.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY... YES! YES!
AND YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT ME, YOU KNOW.
THAT YOU'RE THE MOST SPECIAL PUPPY IN THE WORLD? OF COURSE I'M RIGHT!
NO...
WHEN YOU SAID I WAS SCARED. YOU'RE RIGHT.
OF... ME?
IN A WAY, YES.

I'D NEVER DO ANYTHING TO HURT YOU!
I KNOW. IT'S ***MY*** PROBLEM. I'M... OH, I DON'T KNOW.
TELL ME?
THIS DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE, BUT...
THE IDEA... OF SOMEONE ***INSIDE*** ME...
BUT IT'S NO DIFFERENT THAN WHAT GIRLS DO.
I KNOW. I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT, AND I KNOW IT'S SO DUMB.
I ENVY MY GIRLFRIENDS SOMETIMES. AND YOU.
IT MAKES ME FEEL SPECIAL... LIKE MY LOVER IS A PART OF ME.
I DON'T WANT TO BE AFRAID ANY MORE.

THEN LET ME LOVE YOU...
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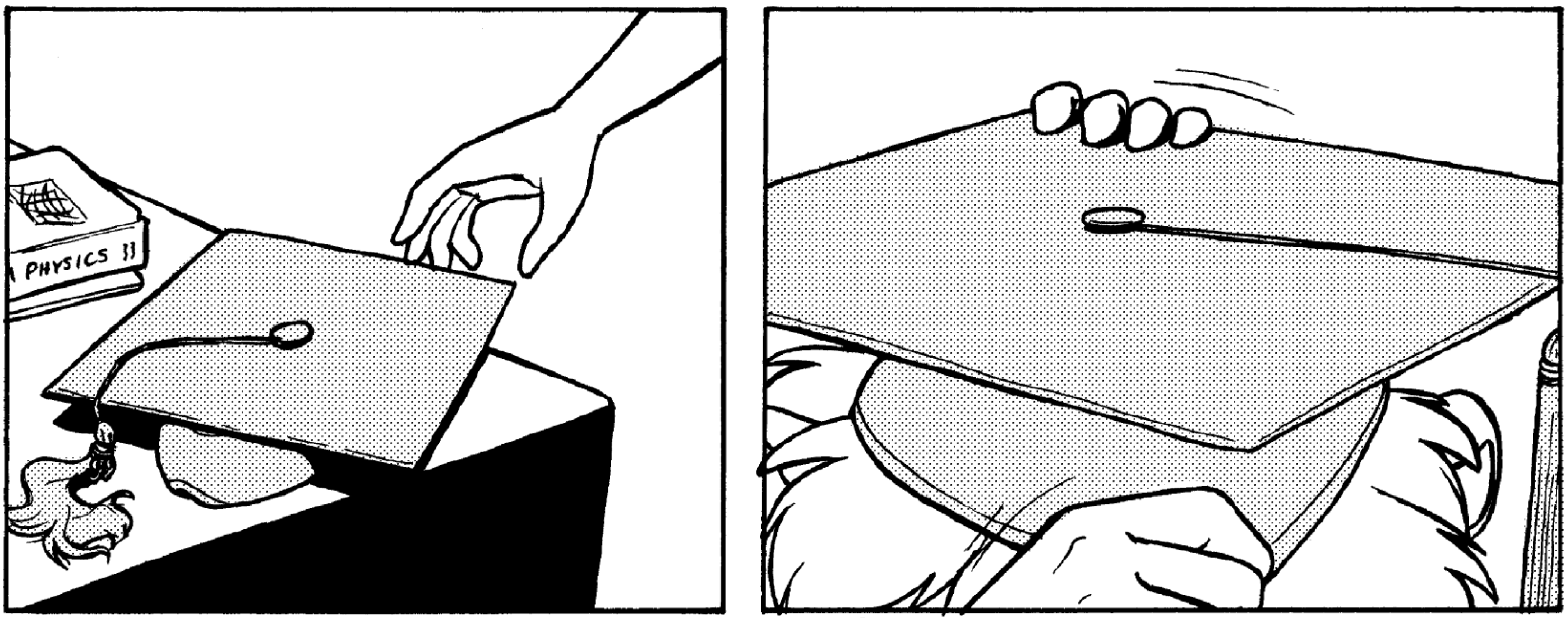
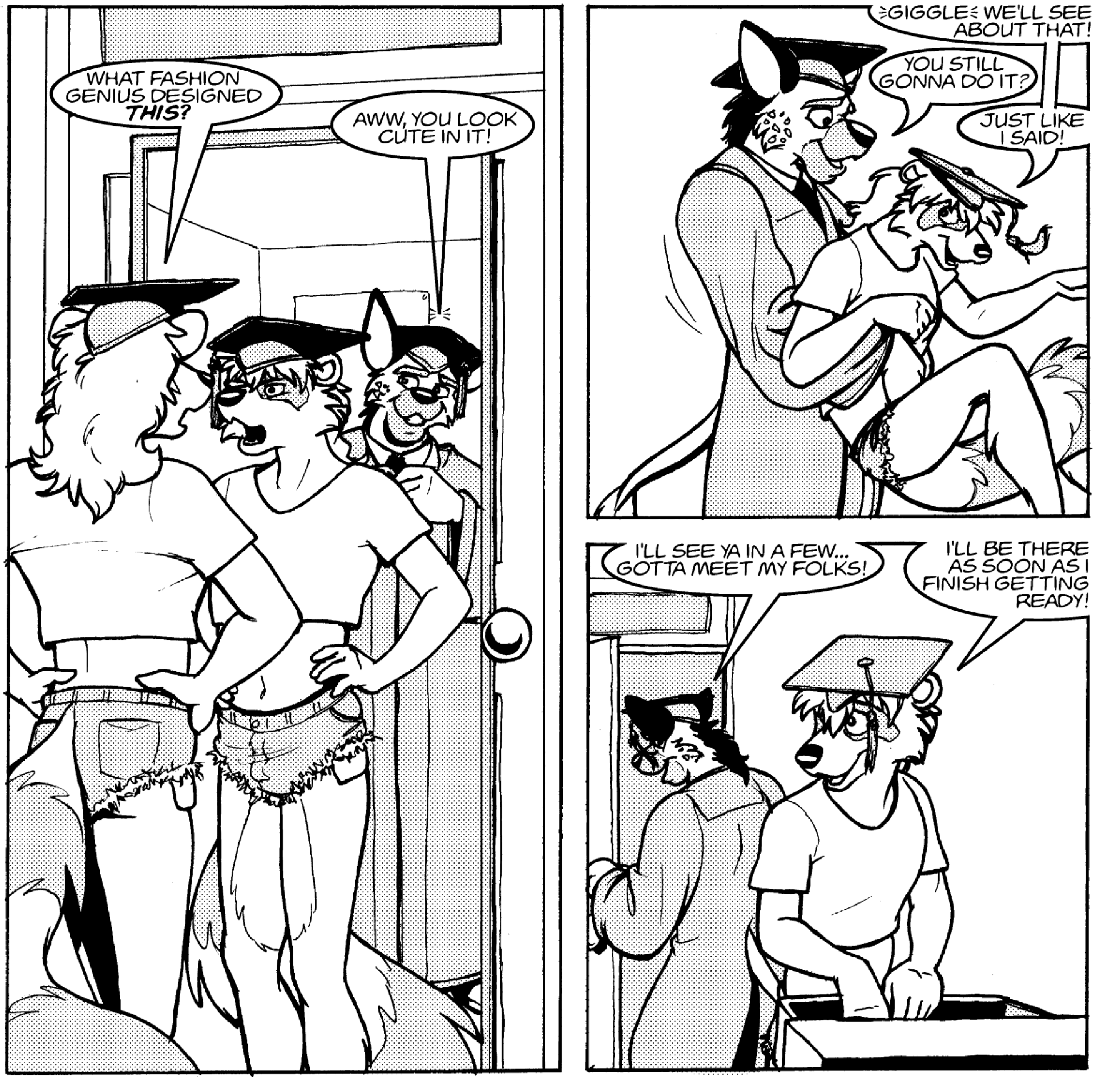
HILLARD
G'MORNING, PUPPYDOG...
WELL, HELLO THERE.
YOUR WEENIE WOKE UP FIRST!
YEAH, IT ALWAYS DOES.
BETCHA I KNOW WHAT YOU DO TO MAKE IT GO DOWN...
SAME THING YOU DO! TWICE, TO MAKE SURE!

LAST NIGHT WAS THE BEST THING THAT EVER HAPPENED TO ME.
I'M GLAD YOU WEREN'T DISAPPOINTED.
DID YOU HAVE A GOOD TIME?
UH HUH... YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT WHAT YOU DO!
THAT'S CAUSE I PRACTICE ALL THE TIME!
SO, UHM... ARE YOU GONNA WANT TO DO THIS AGAIN?
IT WAS WONDERFUL, BUT... NO.
I'M STRAIGHT... I KNOW THAT NOW. BUT, THANKS TO YOU, IT'S A CHOICE, NOT JUST SOMETHING I RAN TO BECAUSE I WAS AFRAID. YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I COULD HAVE EVER TRIED THIS WITH.
ARE YOU OKAY WITH THAT..?
I'VE HAD MY MOMENT WITH YOU. IT'S ENOUGH.
I'LL ALWAYS LOVE YOU... I'LL NEVER FORGET YOU.
END.



Pomp and Circumstance

story by Lance Rund - art by Chris McKinley


WHAT FASHION GENIUS DESIGNED *THIS?*
AWW, YOU LOOK CUTE IN IT!
YOU STILL GONNA DO IT?
JUST LIKE I SAID!
⋟GIGGLE⋞ WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT!
I'LL SEE YA IN A FEW... GOTTA MEET MY FOLKS!
I'LL BE THERE AS SOON AS I FINISH GETTING READY!

CONGRATS CLASS of 1997!
...SO WE'LL BE MOVING TO HAWAII AT THE END OF THE MONTH. I'LL BE WORKING ON THE BIG TELESCOPES THERE.
...AND I GOT A JOB OFFER AT TH' COMMUNITY COLLEGE THERE. I'M GONNA BE A COACH!
I'M SO GLAD YOU CAN STAY TOGETHER. YOU MAKE SUCH A PERFECT COUPLE!
AND RICK WILL HAVE SOMEONE TO KEEP HIM OUT OF TROUBLE.
THAT'S A FULL-TIME JOB!
WE HAVE FULL CONFIDENCE.
WHAT IS THIS, A CONSPIRACY?
THE SNEAKIEST!
pinch
EEP! GOTTA GO...
pinch
ME TOO, THERE'S MY FOLKS...

I NEVER EXPECTED TO BE GETTING A SON-IN-LAW!
LIFE'S JUST ONE SURPRISE AFTER ANOTHER.
SWAT
YOU'RE JUST BEGGING FOR A SPANKING, BUDDY!
ADD IT TO MY ACCOUNT.
RICKY'S SURE GOT NICE PARENTS.
IF A LITTLE BIT WEIRD.
MAKES SENSE... RICKY TURNED OUT WELL ENOUGH.
RICKY ONCE TOLD ME HIS PARENTS KNEW HE WAS GAY BEFORE RICKY KNEW IT HIMSELF.
I JUST CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT THAT WOULD BE LIKE.
IS YOUR DAD HERE?
NOT A CHANCE. THIS IS *MY* DAY. HE DIDN'T DO SHIT FOR ME.
I SUPPOSE...
I'M JUST GLAD I CAN BE HERE TO SHARE IT WITH YOU.
I WOULDN'T HAVE IT ANY OTHER WAY.
BESIDES, IN A FEW YEARS IT'LL BE YOUR TURN.
I'D SETTLE FOR KNOWING WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT WEEK.

WELL, IMAGINE THAT. AIN'T WE GONNA BE PROUD OF YOU! TH' FIRST MORTON TO GO TO COLLEGE!
AWW, IT WAS TH' FOOTBALL THAT DONE IT.
NONSENSE! THAT WAS WHAT GOT YOU *IN.* YOUR BRAIN GOT YOU ***THROUGH.***
I S'POSE...
YOU GOT YOUR DADDY'S MUSCLES AND YOUR MOMMA'S BRAINS!
SO, YOU STILL GONNA BE MOVIN' WITH YOUR UM, ROOMMATE?
YUP. WHERE HE GOES, I GO.
ARE YOU SURE WE CAN'T CHANGE YOUR MIND?
I WANT GRANDCHILDREN TO SPOIL ROTTEN.
I WISH THAT COULD BE... BUT YOU GOT FIVE OTHER KIDS T'DO THAT!
IT'S OKAY, CHARLES. YOU HAFTA DO WHAT'S RIGHT FOR ***YOU.***
THE NEIGHBORS WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND, BUT...
TH' NEIGHBORS CAN KEEP THEIR TRAPS SHUT, IF THEY KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR 'EM!
OOPS, GOTTA RUN! IT'S TIME!
THE MOMENT WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!

...WE'VE HEARD FROM PAST GRADUATES. WE'VE HEARD FROM THE FACULTY LUCKY ENOUGH TO TEACH THESE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN. WE'VE HEARD FROM A NOBEL LAUREATE.
BUT WE HAVEN'T YET HEARD FROM THOSE WE HONOR TODAY... THE GRADUATES.
LELAND UNIVERSITY
THE VALEDICTORIAN IS THE VOICE OF THE GRADUATING CLASS... SELECTED BY THEM. THE VALEDICTORIAN EMBODIES THAT WHICH IS BEST IN OUR YOUNG SCHOLARS... ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, PERSONAL INTEGRITY, AND THE ADMIRATION OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODIES.
THIS YEAR'S VALEDICTORIAN IS NO EXCEPTION. HE HAS SOMEHOW MAINTAINED A PERFECT "A" GRADE RECORD IN TWO DEMANDING MAJORS SIMULTANEOUSLY... ASTRONOMY AND PHYSICS. HE HAS THE DISCOVERY OF TWO COMETS AND SEVERAL ASTEROIDS TO HIS CREDIT, AND HAS EARNED A REPUTATION FOR FLAMBOYANCE, GENEROSITY, AND SELFLESSNESS.
IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO PRESENT THIS FINE YOUNG MAN...

...RICHARD SEBASTIAN!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
HI, MOM!
LELAND UNIVERSITY
IMAGINE MY SURPRISE WHEN I FOUND OUT ABOUT... THIS. VALEDICTORIAN. ISN'T THAT FOR CLASS PRESIDENTS AND FOOTBALL HEROES? CERTAINLY NOT FOR SKINNY GUYS WITH THEIR HEADS IN THE STARS...
TIMES SURE HAVE CHANGED...
LELAND
AND THEY'RE NOT DONE CHANGING, EITHER. THE CHANGES WAITING FOR YOU MIGHT BE THE HARDEST YOU'LL EVER FACE.

NO ONE CAN EVER SAY THAT COLLEGE IS EASY! HOURS OF STUDY, RESEARCH LASTING ALL NIGHT, GETTING HELP FROM YOUR FRIENDS AND TEACHERS, PULLING YOUR HAIR OUT IN FRUSTRATION...
AND THAT'S JUST THE PART WHERE YOU DECIDE WHICH CLASSES TO TAKE!
I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU ABOUT THE ACADEMIC STANDARDS WE HAVE TO MEET. YOU'RE WEARING THE CAP AND GOWN... YOU ALL MADE IT! AND I EXPECT YOU ALL TO GO OUT AND BRAG ABOUT IT. YOU SHOULD... YOU EARNED IT!
WE'VE HAD A SINGLE TASK BEFORE US: GET THE DEGREE. BUT NOW THAT WE'VE DONE THAT, THINGS ARE DIFFERENT.
THE WORLD OUT THERE WAITING FOR US... THE REAL WORLD... DEMANDS A WHOLE LOT MORE THAN JUST A PIECE OF PAPER THAT COST YOUR PARENTS A HUNDRED GRAND!
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO BE A PART OF A TEAM. YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DEAL WITH PEOPLE YOU MIGHT NOT LIKE. YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DEAL WITH TAXES, AND YOU'LL HAVE TO PUT UP WITH UGH DRESS CODES.

I HATE DRESS CODES.
IT'S GOING TO BE A STRANGE NEW WORLD. THE RULES OUT THERE ARE DIFFERENT, AND THEY'RE NOT ***YOUR*** RULES. YOU MAY EVEN RESENT IT...
BUT THINGS WORK LIKE THAT FOR A REASON. EVEN IF YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND AT FIRST... YOU HAVE TO GIVE IT A CHANCE. MEET THEM HALF-WAY. ESPECIALLY THE WRINKLY OLD STUBBORN ONES!
...WRINKLY?
THEY JUST MIGHT SURPRISE YOU BY DOING THE SAME.
WINK
IT'LL FEEL STRANGE AT FIRST. IT'LL FEEL LIKE YOU'RE ABANDONING WHO YOU ARE... BUT DON'T YOU BELIEVE IT! NOT FOR A MOMENT.
NOTHING AS TRIVIAL AS A THREE-PIECE SUIT, A TIME CARD, OR A WEEKLY STATUS REPORT CAN CHANGE WHO YOU ARE IF YOU DON'T LET IT. REMEMBER THAT!
AND DON'T EVER BE AFRAID...

...TO SHOW THE WORLD WHO YOU ARE!

GOOD SPEECH.
UM, PLEASE DON'T THINK I MEANT ANY DISRESPECT...
THIS IS NOTHING COMPARED TO MY OWN GRADUATION.
WHAT HAPPENED?
THIRTY YEARS AGO TODAY. WE HAD FIVE STREAKERS RUN ACROSS THIS VERY STAGE, RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF SINGING THE ALMA MATER.
WOW... WHAT'D YOU DO?
I PUT MY CLOTHES BACK ON WHEN I GOT TO THE OTHER SIDE.
I'LL NEVER THINK OF OLDER PEOPLE THE SAME WAY AGAIN...

END.

Endings and Beginnings

Story by Lance Rund — Art by Chris McKinley

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M GOING TO DO WITHOUT YOU.
I'LL STILL BE AROUND! WE CAN SEE EACH OTHER ON WEEKENDS, AND--
NO, PLEASE, DON'T SAY ANYTHING. IT ALREADY HURTS ENOUGH.
STILL NOT PACKED?
DAD! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
PERHAPS I SHOULD LEAVE.

I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO A FRIEND OF MINE. THIS IS JASON STERN... HE IS THE DEAN OF POLITICAL SCIENCE HERE.
PROFESSOR STERN..?
HELLO THERE, PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
WE WERE CLASSMATES WHEN I WAS AT LELAND.
JASON, THIS IS MY SON, DANIEL.
UM, HI...
I THINK YOU ALREADY KNOW MASTER PAXTEN.
I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT YOUR APPLICATION TO GRAD SCHOOL.
THERE'S NOTHING TO TALK ABOUT. I WITHDREW MY APPLICATION LAST WEEK. I CAN'T AFFORD IT.
YES, WELL, SOMEHOW I MISPLACED YOUR WITHDRAWAL. SHAME ABOUT THAT.
YOU MIGHT WANT TO READ THIS.

WHAT'S IN IT?
WHAT... THIS FALL... KING FOUNDATION... FULL SCHOLARSHIP..?
I'M IN! IT'S PAID FOR! I'LL BE HERE IN GRAD SCHOOL!
I NEED TO GO NOW, BUT BE FOREWARNED...
ENJOY YOUR SUMMER, BECAUSE NEXT SEMESTER, YOU BELONG TO ME!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
I DON'T LIKE YOU. I NEVER WILL. HOWEVER...
YOU'VE MADE MY SON HAPPY. THAT'S SOMETHING I HAVE APPARENTLY NEVER BEEN ABLE TO DO.
SO, FOR **HIS** SAKE, I'VE DONE THIS. DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
YES, SIR.
GOOD.
NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I HAVE A PLANE TO CATCH.

GOODBYE, DANIEL. I'LL SEE YOU WHEN YOU GET HOME FOR SUMMER BREAK.
DAD?
I LOVE YOU...
ONLY... THE BEST... FOR MY SON.

LELAND UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Marcus Paxten
208 Hillard Residence Hall
Leland University
San Tomas, CA 94111

Dear Mr. Paxten,

We are pleased to inform you that upon recommendation from Mr. Alan King, founder of the newly-established King Foundation and Scholarship Fund, you have been selected to receive full scholarship for graduate school, beginning with the Fall 1999 semester.

This scholarship will cover all expenses, including tuition, required text books, fees, and on-campus housing. The King Scholarship is a grant, and will not require repayment in any form. An acceptance form with the formal offer of scholarship will shortly be mailed to you; please read, sign and return that form as soon as possible.

of a grade-point average of at least 2.0 will be required to

Please contact us if you have any questions

THE ~~END~~ BEGINNING

Baron Engel is a long-time friend of the "Associated Student Bodies" staff and a mighty fine fellow. He and his girlfriend Smudge (a Cal Arts graduate with a degree in Character Animation) have been supporters of our little endeavor since Day One. Baron is the cover artist for issues one, six, and eight.

Baron likes to do a lot of sketching of characters to get a feel for them before he commits paint to canvas (or, in his case, Prismacolor pencils). For this project, we raided his sketchbook for some "behind the scenes" art... the moments in which Baron got inside the heads of the ASB weirdos.

SEE! I Told ya!
your RIGHT! I LOOK different TO!

SMASH it To Bits... or NOT?... NAH! I Just Bought it!
RBRRRING!

Marcus, like Baron, is not a morning person.

The horror...

Smug wolf.

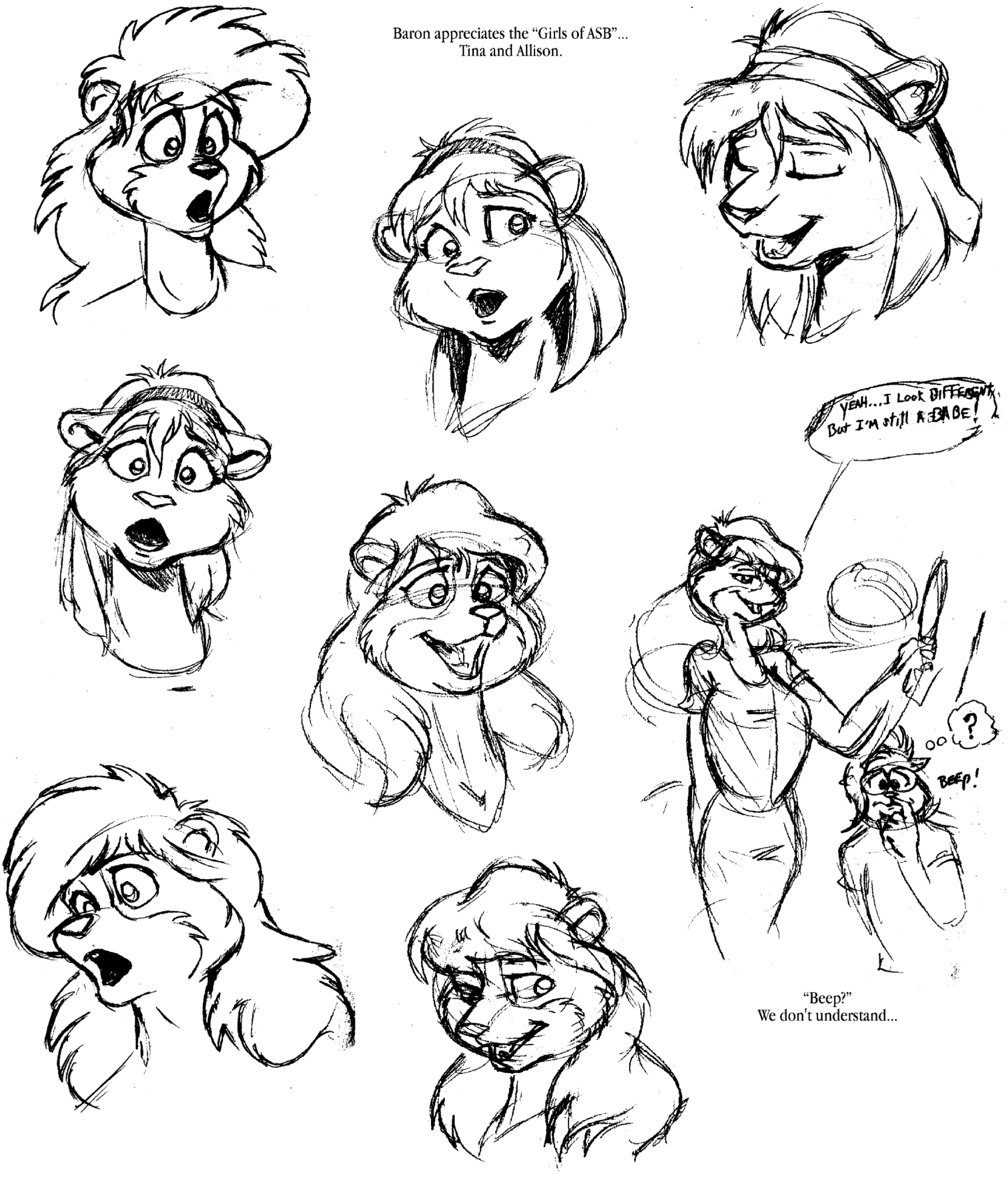
Grr, I say.

Would you trust this face?

Baron does a good Ricky.

Ditto for Tiny.

Frustration?



YEAH...I Look DIFFERENT, But I'M still A BABE!
?
BEEP!

Baron appreciates the “Girls of ASB”...
Tina and Allison.

“Beep?”
We don't understand...

As you can tell, Baron believes that dismayed shock would be the most common expression for Allison and Tina.

We agree.

LETTERS FROM HOME

Dear Mom, College is great! My roommate is weird.
Could you send me some money?

There were quite a few interesting comments on issue 7. To our surprise, as many of these comments were directed towards the Ricky/Tina story as the main story... we're not sure what that means. We'll just take the safe way our and assume that this was because the main story, "Le Roi Es Morte", was clear and concise. It's good to be the editor!

An example of such comments, taken from the electronic mailing list, the first from Kacerdias:

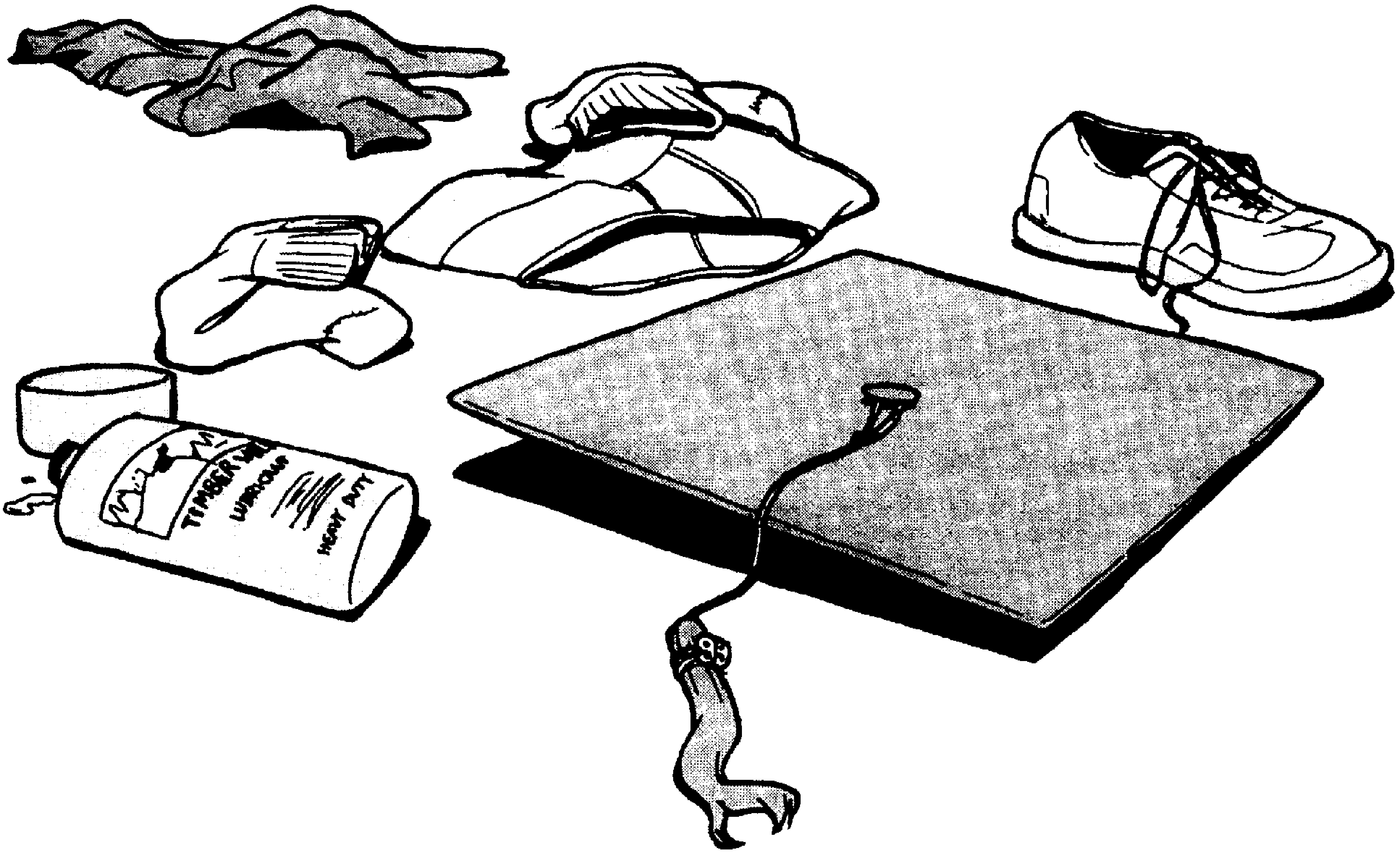
What really struck me wasn't the main story at all although it was marvelously rendered and executed. Jeez, I never knew just how dynamic Tina and Ricky could be! I think it's great that Tina was so up front about what she wanted and Ricky was more open minded than I would have expected. Wonderful chemistry there. I'm glad that both of them decided to shake up roles a bit. Makes you wonder just where the boundaries of sexuality lie if indeed there are any lines.

Only where each of us draw them.

And from Tir:

Seriously, though... I found myself feeling sad for Tina. (Shut up, that's not what I mean...) When you think about it, between her schoolwork and her duties, she *wouldn't* have much of a social life, would she? And here she is, surrounded by attractive males, and the only one who'd even be likely to be attracted to her - isn't. (Is Steven just a one-girlfriend-at-a-time kinda guy? Is she not his type? Or is it the other way around?) We know she's awfully fond of Ricky, and they seem to click (perhaps because in many ways they're quite similar personality-wise) and yet she has to *beg* to get him to think of her as something other than a friend.

Isn't friendship the best basis for lovers? A situation where you wake up next to your friend (whatever the gender mix) and ask "Hey, did we do what I think we just did?" "I dunno... let's do it again to find out!"



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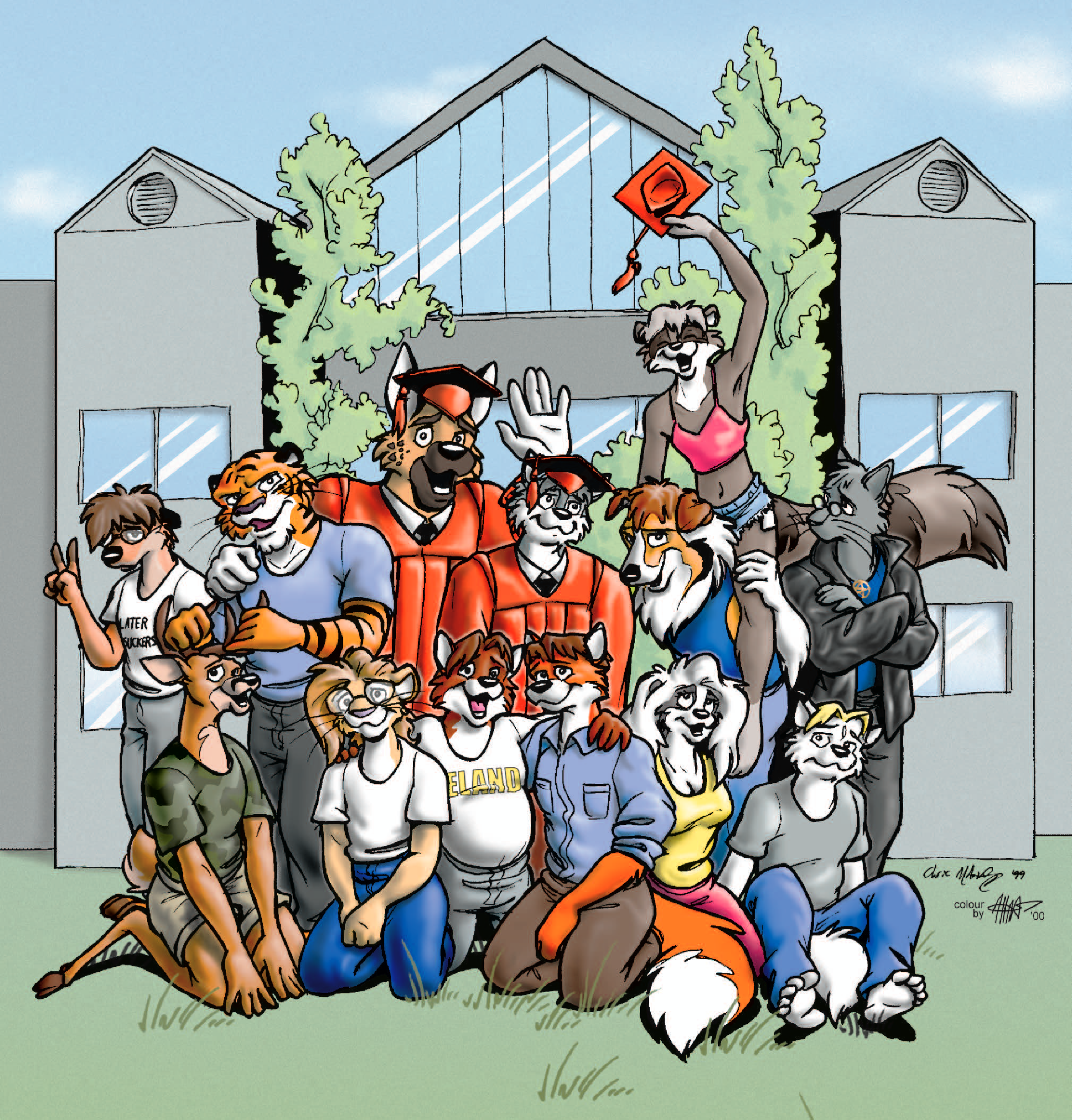
HILLARD EAST

1998 - 1999



RICHARD SEBASTIAN

TIMOTHY MONTGOMERY
DAVID MEARS
CLETIS "TINY" MORTON
MARCUS PAXTEN
STEVEN PARIS
GERALD ANTON

VINCENT DONNEMAN
DANIEL KING
THOMAS CAREY
ALEXANDER INFANTINO
TINA DEVEREAUX
NIGEL CHURCHILL